

What is claimed is:

1. A test device for monitoring a predetermined pressure load on a patient's foot as exerted by a body weight of the patient during walking, comprising:
 - 5 - a pressure sensor which is to be placed under the heel of the patient's foot for monitoring a predetermined pressure load;
 - the pressure sensor comprising a circular, ring-shaped, curved washer having a snap portion which is adapted for being snapped-over from a rest position under a predetermined pressure load of the patient's foot and snapped into an active monitoring position whereby the snapping action is accompanied by an audible signal and further by a sensitive sensing signal acting bodily against the heel of the patient's foot, the snap portion of the curved washer being re-
10 turned again into its rest position on a relief of the predetermined pressure load.
- 15 2. The test device of claim 1 in which the snap portion of the curved washer comprises a conically shaped elevation which surrounds a central opening of the curved washer and is adapted to snap an adjacent edge portion of the curved washer into its active monitoring position.
- 20 3. The test device of claim 1, in which the curved washer is arranged between first and second pressure plates that are designed as shoe inserts whereby a first pressure plate is used as a heel support for the patient's foot.
- 25 4. The test device of claim 3 in which said first pressure plate which is used as a heel support of the patient's foot is provided with an elevated portion adapted for coming into contact with the snap portion of the curved washer.

5. The test device of claim 4 in which the curved washer is arranged within a recess of a second pressure plate, the recess being aligned with the elevated portion of the first pressure plate and being provided for limiting a snapped-over monitoring position of the snap portion of the curved washer.

5

6. The test device of claim 3 in which the first and second pressure plates are designed substantially as dishes in the form of a rest for the patient's heel.

10

7. The test device of claim 3 in which the first and second pressure plates are interlinked by a common pivot means for being relatively movable with respect to each other.

15

8. The test device of claim 7 in which the common pivot means is provided in such a manner as to allow a positioning of the curved washer between the first and second pressure plates when adjusted into a relatively opened arrangement.

20

9. The test device of claim 1 in which distinct predetermined pressure loads are obtained with correspondingly distinct spring characteristics of a multiple set of curved washers.

10. The test device of claim 1 in which distinct predetermined pressure loads are obtained by a laminate of a corresponding multiple arrangement of individual curved washers all of which are provided with the same spring characteristic.

1002633 "424.504